the use of available resources in the most judicious and economically efficient manner. Such an exercise is done regularly.

Institutional credit to small and marginal farmers

3579. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 70 per cent of all economic activities in the rural sector are associated with small and marginal farmers, a substantial proportion of all institutional agricultural credit should go towards small and marginal farmers;

(b) what proportion of the total agricultural credit went to the small and marginal farmers during first three quarters of 2006-07;

(c) what proportion of the Priority Sector Lending is currently earmarked for agricultural sector and actually disbursed in the first three quarters of 2006-07; and

(d) the details on the composition of the agricultural credit for direct and indirect agricultural uses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Capital expenditure on rural development

3580. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the budgeting system, there is no capital expenditure on rural development in the Union Budget documents; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether there are several instances in which the final utilization of the money is for capital expenditure, but is shown as revenue expenditure in the Union Budget documents;

(c) whether it does not lead to accounting problems in estimation of the gross revenue and capital expenditure by the Centre and States;

(d) whether certain expenditure are termed as revenue expenditure instead of 'current' or 'recurring' expenditure in the Indian budget documents; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what is the rationale behind using such misleading terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. All the Demands for Grants of Ministry of Rural Development provide for Revenue expenditure in view of the fact that the funds for schemes/programmes under the Ministry of Rural Development are mostly Centrally-Sponsored Schemes and are released to State Governments as 'Grants' for implementation. As per the existing system of classification, expenditure on 'Grants' is classified as Revenue expenditure though they may result in the creation of assets;

(b) Grants are provided to the State Governments/implementing agencies for creation of durable community, social and economic assets under specific schemes like 'Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana', 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme', 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana' and 'Indira Awas Yojana'. The ownership of such assets rests rests with the State Governments;

(c) No, Sir;

(d) and (e) Charges on maintenance, repair, upkeep and working expenses which are required to maintain assets in a running order as also also other expenses incurred for the day-to-day running of the organisation including establishment and administrative expenses are classified as Revenue expenditure as per provisions of Rule 90 of General Financial Rules. Article 112 (2) of theConstitution of India provides for distinguishing expenditure on revenue account from other expenditure. The classification of expenditure is prescribed by Government in consultation with the Comptroller & Auditor General of India under Article 150 of the Constitution.

Monitoring of commodity prices by States

3581. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre have appealed to State Governments for support